



GWU UPDATE – 28 September 2022

High-Level Political Forum Special Edition



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

— Graduate Women International (GWI) News —

GWU Executive Summary Report – High Level Political Forum 2022

Report submitted by Louise McLeod, GWU VP Advocacy and Education with input from GWU United Nations Representatives (NYC)

In July, GWU Vice President, Louise McLeod, along with GWU United Nations representatives, Maureen Byrne, PhD, Sophie Turner-Zaretsky, M.D., and Maryella Hannum participated in the 2022 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). The HLPF is the central United Nations platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level. The HLPF meets annually under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council for eight days.

The 2022 theme was “Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. The HLPF reviewed in-depth Sustainable Development Goals 4 (quality education), 5 (gender equality), 14 (life below water), 15 (life on land) and 17 (partnerships for the Goals) taking into account the different impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic across all Sustainable Development Goals and their integrated, indivisible and interlinked natures.

Several hundred side events, special events, Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) Labs, and exhibitions took place in-person and on-line during the HLPF. The HLPF was attended by six Heads of State and Government, more than 120 deputy prime-ministers, ministers, and vice ministers, as well as other representatives from governments, intergovernmental organizations, and civil society. Forty-four countries submitted VNRs of their implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; 187 countries made 292 presentations showing continuing international commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and progress in efforts to implement and integrate the SDG into national policies and plans, including those aimed at the recovery from the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

An extensive executive summary of the HLPF, its VNR, SDG review and a plethora of pragmatic resources submitted by McLeod can be found [HERE](#). GWU thanks McLeod for her comprehensive executive summary and encourages the wide distribution of the report.

— GWI 34th triennial General Assembly and Conference —




Graduate Women International

*From Growth to
Sustainability*

34th Triennial
General Assembly and Conference
(to be held virtually)

11 November - 13 November 2022

Register Today! GWI General Assembly and Conference

Under the theme, From Growth to Sustainability, GWI is proud to be hosting the 34th triennial General Assembly and Conference virtually on 11-13 November 2022 in collaboration with the Indian Federation of University Women's Associations. Early bird registration is CHF 60 until 31 October 2022. GWI invites you to join more than 200 other members at the 34th triennial General Assembly and Conference. Don't wait! Click [HERE](#) to register today!

Notably, on 13 November at the GWI public conference, interactive workshops will focus on the five subthemes with the goal to springboard GWI towards a sharper focus on SDG 4, build working relationships with external stakeholders, and engage members in practical SDG 4 projects. The 34th triennial General Assembly and Conference draft agenda can be found [HERE](#).

— GWI at the United Nations —

GWI UN representatives HLPF international advocacy report and general takeaways

In July, GWI United Nations representatives, Maureen Byrne, PhD, Sophie Turner-Zaretsky, M.D., and Maryella Hannum participated in the 2022 HLPF. Together they produced an exceptional, comprehensive international advocacy report that offers a treasure trove of advocacy information on the outcomes of the HLPF. Their international advocacy report includes highlights from the Advanced Copy of the 2022 HLPF Ministerial Declaration regarding SDG 4, SDG 5, education, finance, food and agriculture, gender, health, highlights of individual country comments on education, and key points from the SDG Report 2022 from the U Secretary General.

Notably, Byrne, Turner-Zaretsky and Hannum, general takeaways are, "Representatives on site during the 2022 HLPF session as it relates to Civil Society access at HLPF meetings. We were preregistered and confirmed in writing to attend the high-level meeting. We had previously obtained UN grounds passes earlier in the year. We did not anticipate any issues accessing the meeting. However, once we arrived at the designated meeting room we were abruptly turned away by security guards and told we needed to obtain a secondary pass in order to enter the meeting room. We were not told where exactly but retraced our steps to below the main lobby area and found a small room near to the UN Bookstore where a group was giving out passes to attend the meeting. We obtained passes and walked back to the meeting room entrance but were turned away a second time. This time we were told that we were not permitted to enter at that location and instead were to enter at the mezzanine level off of the front entrance for seating to the side of the meeting room as observers. This was frustrating as the communication could have been clear prior to and/or upon arrival at the UN rather than sending us back and forth to various locations. Once we entered the mezzanine level all the seats were marked off for

either Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGoS) or Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) only—nothing was labelled for NGOs, however, MGoS is made up of various NGOs and Civil Society”.

This international advocacy report can be used by many organisations for their international advocacy messages. GWI graciously thanks Byrne, Turner-Zaretsky and Hannum and is pleased to share this report for its wide distribution, calls to action and general international advocacy strategies. The report can be downloaded [HERE](#).

—Dates and events worth noting —

12 Sept-7 Oct	51 st session of the Human Rights Council Geneva
21 September	International Day of Peace, Global
5 October	World Teachers Day, Global
11 October	International Day of the Girl, Global
15 October	International Day of Rural Women, Global
17 October	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, Global
24 October	United Nations Day, Global
11-13 November	GWI 34 th triennial General Assembly and Conference

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Empowering women and girls through lifelong education for leadership, decision-making and peace. GWI, formerly IFUW, is in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1947 and is an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO and ILO.

Graduate Women International

7-9, Chemin de Balexert, CH-1291, Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland
E-mail: gwi@graduatewomen.org Website: www.graduatewomen.org

